



GN Gardening Magazine

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Cover photo: Tulips in bloom at the LSU AgCenter Botanical Gardens in Baton Rouge, LA.

Our (Tu)Lips are Sealed

Everyone is on the Go-Go as they prepare for the holidays, scrambling to set up the Christmas tree or counting down the seconds for a well-deserved *Vacation* (which is all they ever wanted).

Sometimes you just have to get away, especially between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. It is easy to forget important garden chores during this time, and with the random weather that can occur this time of year, you may feel especially out of rhythm. But don't worry, *We Got the Beat*. If you intend to have a tantalizing bed of tulips on display next year, make sure that the tulip bulbs receive sufficient chilling hours in order to bloom properly. Would leaving them outside provide sufficient chilling? Certainly not in

New Orleans. Therefore, refrigerating tulip bulbs is necessary for ideal blooming. Don't let people tell you otherwise, especially if your tulip bed is the envy of the neighborhood. It doesn't matter what they say or the jealous games people play. *Our Tulips are Sealed...* in the refrigerator.

Tulip bulbs should be refrigerated for at least six weeks before planting to bloom properly. Planting pre-chilled tulip bulbs in the ground is ideally done no earlier than late December (as soils in early December can remain quite warm and disrupt blooming). Planting in late December/early January should

support blooms in March and early April, when the milder weather of early spring is more hospitable and less likely to damage blooms. Bearing this in mind, place your tulip bulbs in the refrigerator sometime in



Rows of brightly colored tulips wind their way around this garden

November (or early December if delaying planting a little later into January). Plant tulips in masses to create a dense floral display, where you can accentuate the effect by using a range of colors. Plant bulbs approximately 5" deep into the landscape bed, which is a little shallower than what would be appropriate for colder climates.

Overseeding the area with a low growing cool-season bedding plant (such as alyssum or pansies) can add extra interest, especially if they provide unique color combinations with the tulips. Just make sure the

tulips grow a little taller than your bedding plants. "Can you see them?" (the tulips). If not, see right through them (the bedding plants) and you'll likely find emerging growth.

People may get defensive and say they don't need to refrigerate their tulips, and that they have all the answers. But they have no shield and no secrets to reveal. Don't let it bother you, and don't you cry. Quiet angel, forget their lies. Pay no mind to what they say, it doesn't matter anyway. Because, hey... *Our Tulips are Sealed*.

~Dr. Damon Abdi

January Vegetable Planting Guide

Crop	Recommended Variety
Beets	Detroit Dark Red, Kestrel, Red Ace F1, Ruby Queen
Broccoli	Arcadia, Diplomat, Gypsy, Packman, Premium Crop, Windsor, Greenbelt
Brussels Sprouts	Jade Cross E, Long Island Improved, Royal Marvel
Cabbage	Blue Vantage, Platinum Dynasty, Stonehead, Cheers, Blue Dynasty, Emblem, Rio Verde
Chinese Cabbage	None Given
Carrots	Danvers 128, Purple Haze, Thumbelina, Apache, Enterprise, Maverick, Sugar Snax 54
Cauliflower	Candid Charm, Cumberland, Freedom, Incline, Majestic, Show Crown, Wentworth
Collards	Champions, Flash, Georgia Southern, Top Bunch, Vates
Kale	None Given
English Peas	Mr. Big, Novella II, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap
Kohlrabi	Early Purple Vienna, Early White, Vienna, Winner
Lettuce	Esmeralda, New Red Fire F1, Nevada, Tall Guzmaine Elite
Mustard Greens	Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah, Tender-green
Potatoes, Irish	Dark Red Norland, Red LaSoda, Red Pontiac, Kennebec, Yukon Gold
Pumpkins	Atlantic Giant, Baby Bear, Gooligan, Sorcerer, Sprint, Silver Moon
Radishes	Cherriette, Champion, White Icicle, April Cross
Shallots	None Given
Swiss Chard	None Given
Turnip Greens	Alamo, All Top, Purple, Top White Globe, Seven Top, Southern Green, Top Star, Tokyo Cross

Misunderstood Plant of the Month

White Clover (*Trifolium repens* L.)

As many of our lawns enter dormancy, green patches of white clover (*Trifolium repens* L.) become more visible. A cool-season

perennial, white clover lies dormant in the summer, reemerges in the fall, and grows through the winter and early spring. White clover can give lawns a patchy look, earning it a weedy reputation.

However, the small, rounded white flowers often with a pink hue that appear during growth are prized by pollinators in months when other nectar sources are scarce (DeBoer, 2024). Additionally, the leaves can be an excellent food source for birds and other wildlife (Ogle and St. John, 2008).

Identification

White Clover is easily identified by its flowers, as mentioned above, and by its leaves before it blooms. The leaves are comprised of three—or four if you're lucky—ovular leaflets attached to a long stem. Each leaflet has a light band near its base, forming a circular pattern across the leaf.

Management

The first step in managing white clover is to identify your land management goals (DeBoer, 2024). For

those interested in promoting biodiversity, management may not be necessary. However, if white clover starts invading garden beds, or if a uniform lawn is the goal, control measures should be taken. As always, maintaining healthy grass is key to managing all turf pests (i.e. weeds, insects, disease). Turf health depends on selecting a grass species suited to your site, mowing at the proper height with sharp blades, alleviating



Bees busily move from flower to flower collecting pollen and nectar.

compaction through aeration, and fertilizing and irrigating appropriately. For detailed turfgrass management information, visit the *Louisiana Home Lawn Series: A guide to maintaining a healthy Louisiana lawn* on the LSU AgCenter's website.

Several herbicides can effectively control white clover in common warm-season turfgrasses, including products containing atrazine, simazine, metasulfuron, trifloxysulfuron, dicamba, or quinclorac (Beasley and

Sanders, 2019). Applications should target periods when clover is weakest—exiting dormancy in fall or entering dormancy in spring. Fall applications, made as soon as clover appears, are preferred because herbicide injury to turfgrass is common during spring green-up (DeBoer, 2024). Multiple applications may be necessary for effective control (Beasley and Sanders, 2019).

~Alyssa Tarrant

Resources and additional reading

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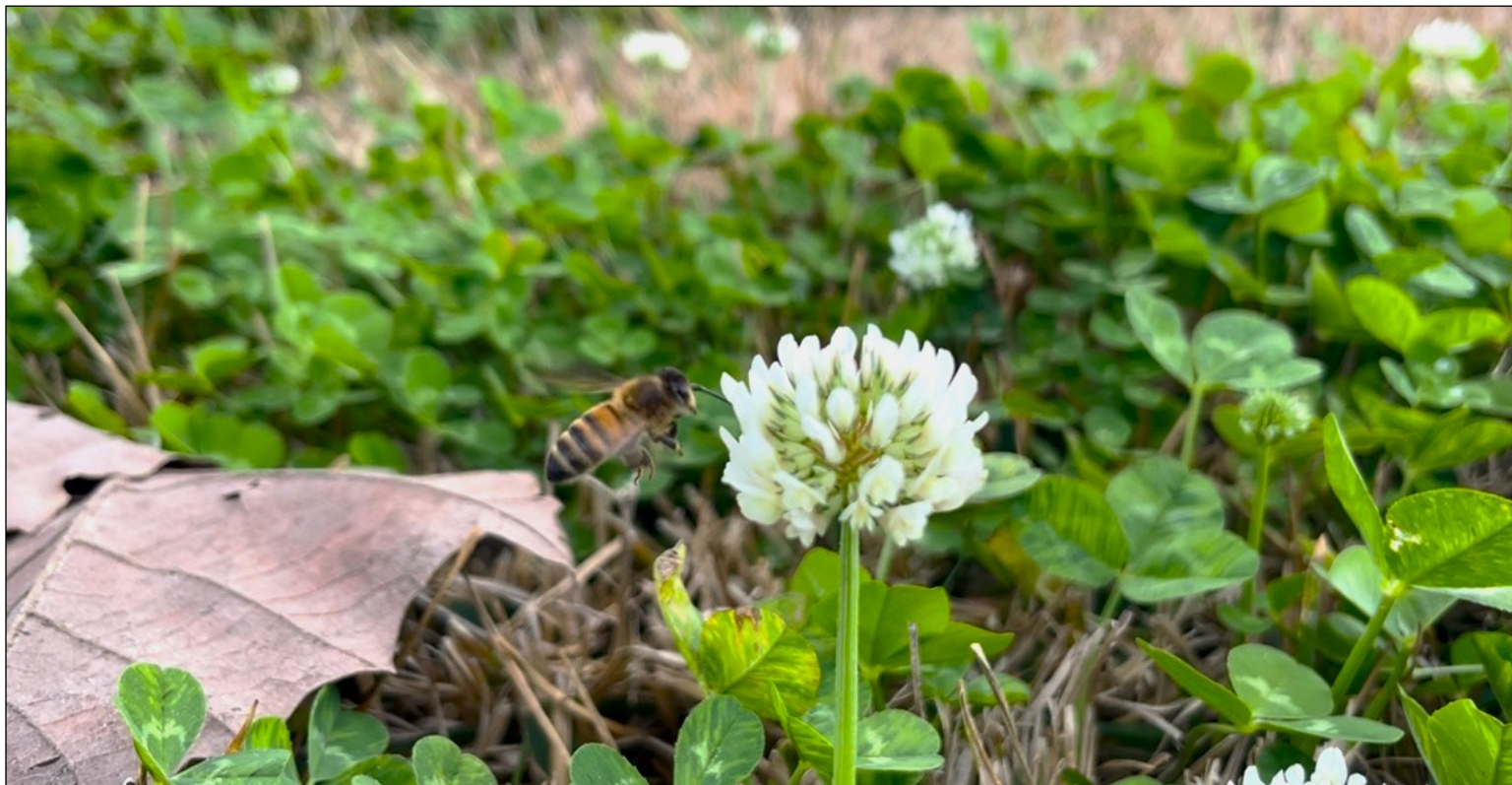
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Nectar from clover is an important economic input for local beekeepers.



A solitary bee prepares to land on a lone clover flower.

Bacterial Wetwood

Have you ever noticed dark colored streaks running down the sides of trees while out and

about? It can be especially noticeable on trees with light colored bark such as red maple, swamp oak, white oak, and water oak. It can be seen in both landscape and volunteer trees. The dark streaking effect is a symptom of a condition known as bacterial wetwood and is common throughout the region.

Bacterial wetwood, also known as bacterial flux or slime flux, is a physiological disorder of several common landscape trees and native trees in the area. Trees like beech, boxelder, cottonwood, elm, hickory, maple, oak, pine, yellow poplar, and sweet gum are some of the common species that can have issues with bacterial wetwood. The symptoms include a dark-colored, foul-smelling liquid that oozes from wounds or cracks in the bark. The ooze is a result of bacterial fermentation within heartwood of infected trees. The heartwood of a tree makes up most of the

internal structure of stems, branches, and trunks. If a bacterial wetwood infection is coupled with other

environmental stresses such as drought and compacted soil in the root zone, then it can move into the sapwood. The sapwood is the area between the heartwood and bark layer, where the current season's vascular tissues are located. Stress in the sapwood area can lead to wilting/ yellowing of leaves, and branch dieback. Several anerobic bacterial organisms can cause bacterial wetwood in trees such as *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, and *Clostridium*. Anerobic means that these organisms do not need oxygen to survive. Some of



Liquid oozing from wounds on the trunk of a tree is an indication of internal decay.

the common means of entry into a tree include pruning, storm damage, and sometimes insect activity. The bacteria colonize xylem tissue, fermenting sugars and other organic compounds. The byproducts produced can be highly volatile, increasing the pressure within the infected plant tissues. Eventually the pressure builds to a point

where it forces liquid exudate out of the tree and it runs down the side and creates the dark streaking effect.

Bacterial wetwood isn't necessarily fatal, but it can cause issues in structural integrity and make trees more susceptible to other environmental stresses. In the home landscape, the dark streaking looks out of place and affects the overall aesthetics. To speak optimistically, the liquid exudate running down the trunk can serve as a food source for insects and microorganisms, contributing to the local food web. As you start noticing how common bacterial wetwood is on native vegetation, its role in the local food web becomes more apparent.

Management of bacterial wetwood in trees starts and ends with prevention. Follow proper cultural controls regarding trees in the landscape. Maintain a 3-4 inch layer of mulch above the immediate root zone (think under the tree's canopy). Provide supplemental irrigation during extended periods of drought. Follow proper pruning procedures and use sharp pruners when removing branches from the tree. Limit the use of heavy equipment under the canopy of trees to prevent further soil compaction. There are no chemical treatments to help with bacterial wetwood so prevention through cultural control methods is paramount.

~William Afton



Sometimes, the exudate of bacterial wetwood will consist of a foaming froth.

Look At Me

Angel's Trumpet (*Brugmansia*)

When Angel's Trumpet is in bloom, it's impossible to miss. Angel's Trumpet, known botanically as *Brugmansia* sp., is a striking ornamental plant admired for its large, fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers. Native to South

America, it thrives in warm climates and is a common landscape plant in Southern Louisiana gardens due to its dramatic appearance and heady fragrance.

There are no existing *Brugmansia* species growing in their native habitat, as all seven species are listed as "Extinct in the Wild" by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). These plants are now found only in cultivation, botanical collections, or as escapes from human planting.

They are popular ornamental plants and exist wild outside their native range as introduced species. No natively wild plant communities have ever been confirmed. It is suspected that their wild populations died out after a seed-dispersing animal became extinct, but humans have ensured the genus's continued survival through cultivation.

Botanical Description

Angel's Trumpet (genus *Brugmansia*) belongs to the Solanaceae family, which also includes tomatoes, eggplants, potatoes, and peppers. Angel's Trumpets are grown as woody shrubs or small trees, typically reaching heights of 6 to 20 feet depending on the

variety and growing conditions. Leaves are large, ovate to elliptic, and can be either smooth-edged or slightly toothed, arranged alternately along the stems. The most striking feature is the large, trumpet-shaped flowers that hang downward, measuring 6 to 20

inches in length. Flowers come in a range of colors including white, yellow, pink, and peach, and are often fragrant, especially in the evening.

Brugmansia species are native to South America and thrive in warm, humid climates like Southern Louisiana.

Toxicity

All parts of *Brugmansia* (Angel's Trumpet) are toxic to humans and animals due to the presence of dangerous tropane alkaloids like scopolamine,

hyoscyamine, and

atropine. Seeds have the highest concentration of toxins. Ingesting any part of the plant can lead to serious health problems and even death and touching the plant can cause skin irritation or temporary vision changes.

Toxicity details

- **Chemicals:** All parts of the plant—including the leaves, flowers, seeds, and roots—contain toxic tropane alkaloids.
- **Method of poisoning:** Poisoning can occur through ingestion, and even from touching the plant, which can transfer enough active principles to the skin or eyes to cause a reaction.



Angel's trumpet plants can be successfully grown in containers.

- **Symptoms:** Effects can include hallucinations, delirium, paralysis, and dilated pupils. Ingesting a small amount can be fatal.

Safety precautions

- **Keep**

away: Plant *Brugmansia* in a location where children, pets, and livestock cannot easily access it.

- **Handle with**

care: Always wear gloves, long sleeves, and eye protection when handling the plant or its sap to prevent skin and eye irritation.

- **Educate others:** Make sure anyone who comes into contact with the plant, especially children, understands that it is toxic and must not be touched or consumed.

- **Seek medical help:** In case of accidental ingestion or eye exposure, seek immediate medical assistance.

Species

Commercially available *Brugmansia* include seven species and multiple hybrids, each with unique flower colors and growth habits.

Below are the descriptions of the species. All are listed as Zone 9-11 hardy and most do

well in Zone 8 with protection. *B. sanguinea* requires a sheltered location as it is sensitive to intense heat.

Brugmansia arborea

- ♦ Native to the Andes mountains; Common Name: Angel's Trumpet
- ♦ Growth Habit: Evergreen shrub or small tree, 6–10 ft tall
- ♦ Flowers: White, trumpet-shaped flowers with recurved petals, 6–8" long, and mildly fragrant

- ♦ Leaves: Leaves are ovate, with coarsely toothed or entire margins, and are covered in a fine, velvety white down.

- ♦ Cultivation: Rich, well-drained soil, sun to partial shade; Tolerates cooler temperatures better than other *Brugmansias*.

Brugmansia aurea

- ♦ Native Range: Endemic to the Andes mountains of Ecuador and Colombia, naturally growing in cloud forests at high altitudes. Common name: Golden Angel's Trumpet

- ♦ Growth Habit: Evergreen shrub or small tree, typically 6 to 20 feet tall, with a bushy, upright to spreading habit.

- ♦ Flowers: Pendulous, trumpet-shaped flowers, golden yellow in color, 8–12" long. Single or double blooms with a strong, sweet evening fragrance.

- ♦ Leaves: Large, ovate, dark green leaves measuring 6 to 12 inches long. Alternately arranged with a slightly rough texture.

- ♦ Cultivation: Prefers warm, temperate to subtropical climates.

Thrives in full sun to partial shade, well-draining nutrient-rich soil, and regular watering. Benefits from balanced fertilization during the growing season.

Brugmansia insignis

- ♦ Native Range: Endemic to the upper Amazon region at the eastern base of the Andes in Peru. Common Name: Magnificent Angel's Trumpet
- ♦ Growth Habit: Evergreen shrub or small tree,



Figure 1: *Brugmansia arborea*. Photo by Vinayaraj



Figure 2: *Brugmansia aurea* Photo by SiteOne

typically reaching 3–4 meters (10–13 feet) in height.

- ♦ Flowers: Large, nodding, funnel-shaped blooms. Colors range from white to blush pink. Flowers are 8–12" long and are strongly fragrant, especially in the evening, similar to *B. suaveolens*.
- ♦ Foliage: Leaves are large, broad, and dark green, forming a lush backdrop for the plant's trumpet-shaped flowers. They are arranged alternately along the stems, can be 4–12" long, and may have a coarsely toothed or entire margin and slightly hairy.
- ♦ Cultivation: Prefers warm, humid environments. Grows well in full sun to partial shade. Requires regular watering and fertile, well-drained soil.

Brugmansia sanguinea

- ♦ Native to the Andes from Colombia to northern Chile: Common Name: Red Angel's Trumpet
- ♦ Growth Habit: Semi-evergreen shrub or tree, 8–12 ft. tall.
- ♦ Flowers: Distinctive tubular red to orange with yellow veins, 8–10" long with no fragrance.
- ♦ Leaves: Large, broadly lance-shaped, and have a velvety, gray-green or bright green appearance.
- ♦ Cultivation: Cooler climates, full sun, moist well-drained soil.

Brugmansia suaveolens

- ♦ Native to Brazil; Common Name: Angel's Trumpet.
- ♦ Growth Habit: Semi-evergreen woody shrub or small tree, 8–16 ft. tall.
- ♦ Flowers: Large, pendulous, trumpet-shaped, white to pale pink, 8–12" long with a strong, sweet fragrance, especially in the evening.
- ♦ Leaves: Leaves are large, oval, and alternate, measuring 4–12" long and 2–6" wide. They have a smooth or sometimes toothed margin and taper to a point. The leaves are soft, can be larger in shady conditions, and are often covered in fine hairs.
- ♦ Cultivation: Prefers full sun, moist well-drained soil, regular feeding.

Brugmansia versicolor

- ♦ Native to Ecuador; Common Name: Angel's Trumpet.
- ♦ Growth Habit: Vigorous shrub or small tree, 10–15 ft.



Figure 3: *Brugmansia insignis* Photo by Brugmansia Growers International



Figure 4: *Brugmansia sanguinea* Photo by Exotic Garden



Figure 5: *Brugmansia suaveolens* Photo by Koltorn

tall.

- ♦ Flowers: Largest among Brugmansias, creamy-white turning peach or pink. Up to 20" long with a strong, sweet fragrance especially in the evening.
- ♦ Leaves: Leaves are large, broadly egg-shaped or elliptic, and evergreen with smooth, entire margins. They are typically a soft green color, sometimes described as paddle-shaped, and arranged alternately on the stems.
- ♦ Cultivation: Full sun, rich moist soil, regular fertilization.



Figure 6: *Brugmansia versicolor* Photo in Public Domain

- ♦ Cultivation: Prefers cool, moist environments with partial shade. Grows best in rich, well-drained soil with consistent moisture. Not tolerant of high heat or drought. Ideal for highland gardens or temperate zones with mild summers. Can be

grown in containers in cooler climates and overwintered indoors.

These seven species and hundreds of cultivars and hybrids are available to purchase, ranging from single-color to multi-colored flowers. Many retailers don't list specific names and instead sell them by color, such as white, pink, yellow, orange, or peach. Flowers

Brugmansia vulcanicola

- ♦ Native Range: Endemic to the Andes Mountains of Colombia and Ecuador, typically found at elevations between 8,500–11,500 feet. It thrives in cool, moist, mountain cloud forests, often in volcanic soils.
- ♦ Growth Habit: A small tree or shrub reaching 6.5 to 13 feet in height. It has a bushy form with soft branches and dark green, ovate leaves.
- ♦ Flowers: The smallest flowers among all *Brugmansia* species, measuring 6 to 9 inches in length. The flowers are tubular to trumpet-shaped, and appear in shades of red, pink, or yellow. Mild to no fragrance, unlike many other *Brugmansia* species. Some cultivars may emit a faint scent in the evening, but it is generally considered non-fragrant.

can also be single, double, or triple depending on the variety.



Figure 7: *Brugmansia vulcanicola* Photo by Lipper1

Growing Conditions

Angel's Trumpet thrives in full sun to partial shade and prefers well-drained, fertile soil. In Southern Louisiana, it benefits from regular watering and protection from strong winds. It can be grown in containers or directly in the ground and should be fertilized monthly during the growing season for optimal flowering.

Brugmansia is a very heavy feeder and should be fertilized regularly – maybe as often as twice a week during the growing season (fertilization increases flower production). It requires frequent watering, but

it also requires good drainage and does not like to stand in water. Aphids, mealy bugs, whiteflies, and spider mites may become an issue but are easily controlled with insecticidal soap.

Propagation

Propagation is commonly done through stem cuttings. Cuttings should be taken from semi-hardwood sections, placed in water or moist soil, and kept in a warm, humid environment until roots develop. Seeds can also be used but may take longer to germinate and grow.

Landscape Uses

In Southern Louisiana, Angel's Trumpet is used as a focal point in gardens, along fences, or near patios where its fragrance can be enjoyed. Its dramatic flowers and lush foliage make it ideal for tropical-themed landscapes. It can also be pruned into tree form or allowed to grow as a large shrub.

~ Dr. Joe Willis

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Figure 8: Some of the Brugmansia varieties available online at Logee's, CN.

Violas (*Viola cornuta*)

Because of their smaller flowers, violas are often overlooked in garden centers in favor of their showier cousin, the pansy. However, violas are generally tougher and more cold-tolerant than pansies and produce more flowers that better withstand rainy weather (Gill, 2016). With a color range just as wide as pansies, violas make a great, slightly lower-maintenance alternative for cool-season flower beds and containers. The “Sorbet” series has been named a Louisiana Super Plant owing to its wide variety of colors (Figure 1), prolific blooming, and overall superior performance in LSU AgCenter trial gardens (Fields et al., 2023).

The recommended planting window for violas is late September or early October through the beginning of December, but they can be planted through February (Figure 2). Delay planting in the fall until daytime highs are consistently in the 70s or lower for best results (Gill, 2016). Plants will reach 6 to 8 inches tall and 8 to 12 inches wide (Fields et al., 2023).

Well cared for plants can provide color through early to mid-May, typically a few weeks longer than pansies (Mitchell, 2025). Planting in full sun (at least 6 hours of direct sun) will ensure maximum blooming, but plants will perform well in part shade as well (Fields

et al., 2023). Violas prefer a slightly acidic to neutral soil pH, ranging from 6.5-7.0, and consistent moisture (Fields et al., 2023). Adding compost to the

soil ahead of planting and applying mulch after planting will help retain moisture (Mitchell, 2025). As heavy feeders, compost will also add valuable nutrients, but anticipate supplementing with fertilizer once or twice a month (Gill, 2016).

Aside from deer, violas have few pest or disease problems (Fields et al., 2023). Fencing or other physical barriers may be necessary for homes with heavy deer pressure. Since violas are edible for humans too, fencing may also be necessary to deter hungry passersby from snacking on your



Cheerful violas growing in a garden. Photo by Alyssa Tarrant

colorful blooms!

~Alyssa Tarrant

Resources

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Edible Landscaping - Where Beauty Meets Functionality

What is Edible Landscaping? Edible landscaping is the art of integrating food-producing plants into traditional ornamental landscapes. Instead of separating vegetable gardens from flower beds, edible landscaping combines aesthetics with utility creating spaces that are both beautiful and productive. This approach is ideal for Louisiana home gardeners who want to maximize their outdoor spaces while enjoying fresh, homegrown produce. Successful results require planning and careful consideration of plant varieties to use but the rewards for those efforts are boundless.

Design Principles for Edible Gardens

- Start by building the basic structure. Use fruit trees, fruit-bearing shrubs, and perennial herbs as anchor plants.
- Design with layering for visual appeal. Combine tall plants (like figs or citrus) with mid-size plants and groundcovers.
- Color and texture are important considerations for attractive yet productive gardens. Select plants with attractive foliage, flowers, and fruits.
- Maintain seasonal interest by planning for year-round harvest and beauty. Plan for warm-season and cool-season edibles and prepare for the transition period. For our area, look for plants and varieties that are heat-tolerant and humidity friendly. Winters can occasionally be harsh, so

choose freeze hardy varieties or plan ahead for freeze protection.

Some Plants Commonly Used in Louisiana Edible Landscapes

- Trees: Citrus (kumquat, satsuma, orange, lemon), figs, persimmons, loquats, avocados, olives, mayhaws, bay tree.
- Shrubs: Blueberries, blackberries, guavas.
- Vines: Hardy kiwi, muscadine.



Some beautiful vegetable varieties for edible landscapes.

- Herbs: Rosemary, marjoram, oregano, borage, thyme, chives, dill, fennel, ginger, turmeric, lemon balm, lemon grass, sage, basil, mint, salad burnet.
- Vegetables: Okra, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, lettuces, kale, cabbage, squash, cauliflower, broccoli, artichoke, mustard greens, cucumbers, beans, Swiss chard.
- Edible Ornamental Flowers: Nasturtium, bee balm, borage, calendula, chervil, dianthus, impatiens, monarda, violas.

Considerations for Edible Landscaping

- Most trees, shrubs, and vegetables used in an edible landscape require full sun. For the most production and aesthetic value, be sure that the garden gets at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily.
- An edible garden soil should be rich in organic matter, have excellent drainage, and a pH in the 5.8-6.7 range.
- A lot of gardeners seldom fertilize their ornamental gardens and the plants perform quite well. However, an edible garden needs a steady supply of nutrients for optimal produce production. Therefore, the edible garden needs to be fertilized based on the recommendations for the vegetables, fruits or other edibles being grown.
- The use of containers is an excellent way to increase both the production and beauty of an edible garden. Dwarf fruit trees, herbs, and virtually all vegetables can be grown in containers. The strategic placement of containers in the landscape adds the beauty of the containers themselves, allows for easy replacement when plants are harvested, and makes the warm season to cool season transition easier.
- Vertical gardening maximizes space and increases the eye appeal of an edible landscape. Decorative trellises, arbors, lattices, stakes, and cages add dimension and texture. Wire or net support attached to a bordering wall or fence does the same. Plants that require or do well with vertical support include beans, cucumbers, grapes, kiwis, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, and blackberries.

Pest and Disease Management Tips

- Monitor regularly for common pests like aphids, caterpillars, and scale insects. Monitor regularly for disease symptoms. Plan to do this more often than you normally would for an ornamental landscape.
- Encourage beneficial insects - the pollinators, predators, and parasites.
- Use disease and insect control measures approved and recommended for edible gardens. Products should be labeled for vegetables or fruit trees. DO

NOT use any fungicides, insecticides, or herbicides that are not safe for vegetable gardens. Do Not try to use more restrictive pesticides on surrounding non-edible ornamental plants because pesticide drift is bound to happen.

- Maintain good sanitation practices. Remove diseased or infested plant material promptly. Remove plant debris that may harbor insects or diseases. Use a 2"-4" mulch layer to reduce weeds and stabilize soil moisture and temperature.

Plan your edible landscape in advance. Many of the more attractive or useful vegetable varieties aren't available at local garden centers. Garden centers only have so much space and tend to stock vegetable and herb varieties that are commonly grown successfully in most home gardens. You won't likely find these plant varieties at our local garden centers - candle fire okra, bulldog okra, midnight snack tomatoes, sungold tomatoes, purple jalapenos, fish peppers, corbaci peppers, biquinho peppers, sweet success cucumbers, diva cucumbers, itachi cucumbers, dancer eggplant, annina eggplant, orient express eggplant, summer emerald eggplant, flashy butter gem lettuce, sunagri lettuce, salanova red oak leaf lettuce, freckles lettuce, purple moon cauliflower, clementine cauliflower, graffiti cauliflower, veronica cauliflower. These are some of the gorgeous vegetable varieties that I have grown successfully here but you must grow your own transplants. Therefore, you have to plan ahead, order your seeds early, and start your transplants in time to be ready when the season arrives. And don't forget to order your seeds for the edible flowers you plant to incorporate.

One last consideration when designing an edible landscape is to know how many plants of a specific edible you will need to make the work worthwhile. If using herbs or edible flowers, you won't need very many. However, if planting vegetables, it's a good idea to be aware of how many plants you will need to provide enough fresh vegetables for you and your household. Check the July 2023 edition of GNO Gardening for an article on knowing how much to plant.

Sample Layout Plan

Divide into 3 zones for visual interest and crop rotation:

Front Border (Ornamental Edibles & Flowers)

♦ **Edible Flowers:**

- *Nasturtium* (trailing, vibrant orange/yellow, edible leaves & flowers)
- *Calendula* (bright orange/yellow petals for salads)
- *Violas/Pansies* (cool-season transition, edible petals)

♦ **Herbs for edging:**

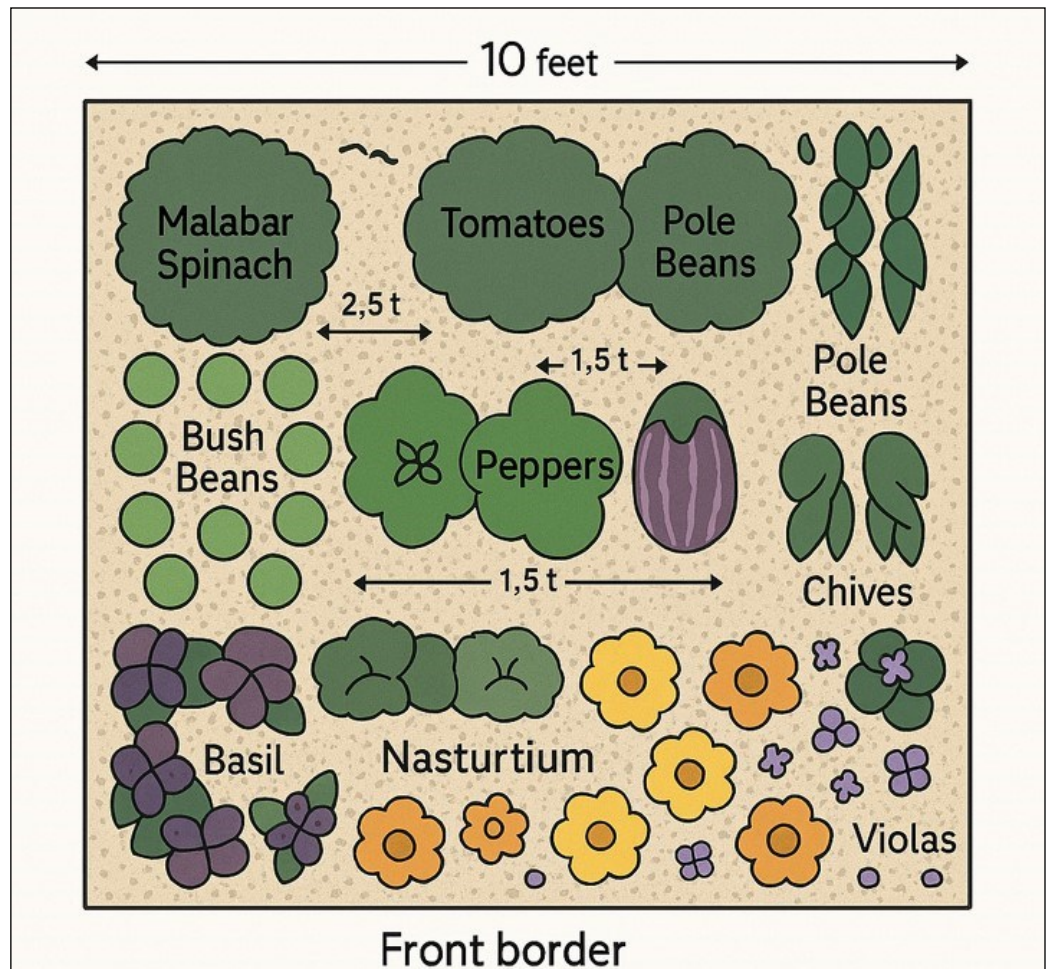
- *Basil* (purple and green varieties for color contrast)
- *Chives* (purple blooms, edible leaves)

Middle Layer (Compact Warm-Season Vegetables)

- *Bush Beans* (green or purple varieties)
- *Peppers* (bell peppers in mixed colors, or ornamental hot peppers)
- *Eggplant* (varieties like 'Fairy Tale' for striped purple fruits)

Back Layer (Vertical Interest & Vining Crops)

- *Tomatoes* (indeterminate types on trellis for height)
- *Malabar Spinach* (ornamental vine with edible leaves)
- *Pole Beans* or *Cucumbers* (trained on trellis)



Color & Texture Strategy

- ♦ Combine purple foliage basil, striped eggplants, and bright nasturtiums for ornamental appeal.
- ♦ Use trellises or obelisks for vertical crops to create structure and maximize space.

Additional Tips

- ♦ Succession Planting: Start with cool-season edible flowers (violas) and transition to warm-season blooms (nasturtiums, calendula).
- ♦ Pollinator Support: Include flowering herbs like basil and chives for bees.
- ♦ Mulch & Path: Use a narrow mulch path for access and moisture retention.

Resources:

Hansen, Gail. 2019. Landscape Design with Edibles. UFL Extension ENH1214. [landscape design with edibles - uflpdf.pdf](#)

LSU AgCenter: Home Garden Crops, [Home Garden Crops](#)

Willis, Joe. 2019. "Please Do Eat the Daisies – Edible Flowers", GNO Gardening February 2019.

Willis, Joe. 2023. "How Much to Plant – Veggies", GNO Gardening July 2023.

Know Your Natives:

Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*)

Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), also known as woodland pinkroot, is a clump-forming, herbaceous perennial in the Loganiaceae family. It typically grows 12–18 inches tall and 6–18 inches wide, forming upright stems with opposite, lance-shaped leaves. The plant produces striking trumpet-shaped flowers, bright red on the outside and yellow inside, flaring into a five-pointed star at the tip. Flowering occurs in late spring to early summer, and flowers are highly attractive to hummingbirds.



Spigelia marilandica. Photo by Nance Plants.

Native to the Southeastern U.S., including Louisiana, it thrives in moist woodland habitats.

The plant was historically used by the native Cherokee and the Creek to treat worms. However, it's important to note the plant contains the alkaloid spigiline. Spigiline is a toxic alkaloid found in the roots and foliage of the plant that is poisonous to humans and can cause symptoms like vomiting, blurred vision, and convulsions. The dried roots are used as a hallucinogen, although death is an unfortunate side effect of overdosing.

Growing Conditions

- **Light:** Full sun to part shade. Occurs naturally in

partial shade to full shade; tolerates filtered sun with adequate moisture.

- **Soil:** Rich, moist, well-drained soil with high organic matter; slightly acidic to neutral pH.
 - **Water:** Consistent moisture during active growth; drought-tolerant once established.
 - **Hardiness:** USDA Zones 5–9.
 - **Maintenance:** Low; deadheading prolongs bloom period.
- In nature, Indian pink prefers to grow in semi-shaded, woodland sites with adequate

soil moisture. Irrigation may be required in more sunny landscape settings. Plants in sunny locations will have denser foliage and plants will be more compact and with increased flowering.

Propagation

- **By Seed:** Collect seeds from mature capsules in summer; sow immediately or stratify for better germination. Seeds may take up to two years to sprout. Seed capsules generally ripen by early Summer. The fruit is a two-lobed capsule maturing from green to dark color that dehisces at maturity and explosively releases its seeds. Bagging capsules before the seeds are ejected is a

good way to collect mature seeds.

- By Division: Divide clumps in early spring or fall when dormant. Ensure each division has healthy roots and shoots. By three or more years of age, plants should have a well-established, dense fibrous root system with multiple stems. Dig each plant and rinse soil from the root system. Divide the plant with a sharp knife ensuring that each division has a growing point or stem. Divisions are best made in early summer
- By Cuttings: Propagation from tip cuttings works best by taking the cuttings before the plants begin to bloom in the spring. Take stem cuttings with 2 to 3 nodes and root in 2:1 perlite and peat medium or a 1:1 mixture of perlite and seed germination potting soil. Use of rooting hormone will increase the percentage of cuttings that root.

Landscape Uses

Indian Pink is ideal for woodland gardens, native plant gardens, and shade borders. It also works great for pollinator gardens—especially for attracting hummingbirds.

Its compact habit and vivid blooms make it a standout in the landscape. When grown in filtered shade or morning sun, *Spigelia marilandica* makes a truly stunning perennial. *Spigelia* emerges in early spring quickly forming a compact clump of 20" tall, upright stems, each ending in a cyme of upward facing, red trumpet-shaped flowers with a star-shaped tip whose opening reveals a butter-yellow center. A mature clump of *Spigelia marilandica* can have over 75 flowering stalks simultaneously. In Louisiana, *Spigelia marilandica* flowers from April through June and may reflower into the fall if deadheaded.

There are currently two cultivars available commercially, 'Little Redhead' and 'Ragin Cajun'. 'Little Redhead' is smaller and tidier cultivar of Indian Pink. 'Ragin' Cajun Indian Pink is a Plant Delights introduction that originated near St. Francisville,

Louisiana that was selected for its neat, compact rounded habit, high bud count, orange-red flowers, and long flowering season.

A closely related species, *Spigelia alabamensis*, is smaller with vibrant pink flowers borne in abundance. The plant is rare in the wild and may soon be added to the Federal Endangered list.

~ Dr. Joe W Willis



Spigelia alabamensis. Photo by Encyclopedia of Alabama.

Selected References

- Avent, Tony. 2025. Indian Pink. Juniper Level Botanic Garden. [Spigelia marilandica - Juniper Level Botanic Garden](#)
- Encyclopedia of Alabama. 2025. Alabama Gentian Pinkroot. [Alabama Gentian Pinkroot - Encyclopedia of Alabama](#)
- Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder. 2025. *Spigelia marilandica*: Little Red Head. [Spigelia marilandica 'Little Redhead' - Plant Finder](#)
- Prairie Moon Nursery. 2025. Indian Pink. [Spigelia marilandica Indian Pink | Prairie Moon Nursery](#)
- Stritch, Larry. 2025. US Forest Service – Plant of the Week. [Indian Pink](#)
- Williamson, Joey. 2019. Indian Pink. Clemson HGIC. [Indian Pink | Home & Garden Information Center](#)

What's Bugging You?

Puffy Fruit

If you are among the lucky few people who have citrus to pick on trees that survived last winter's blizzard, you may be finding some fruits that look abnormal. This can be really disappointing, especially after months of waiting for a nice, juicy satsuma, orange, or other citrus fruit. While this condition isn't caused by an insect pest directly, stressed trees and those impacted by citrus greening disease, which is spread by the Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) can make trees more likely to make puffy fruits.

So what is a puffy fruit? In most cases, a puffy fruit will be several times larger in size than the fruit typically produced by a cultivar. A 'Owari' satsuma may make a puffy fruit the size of a 'Ruby

Red' grapefruit. When squeezed, the rind feels spongy due to a large air gap between the peel and the flesh of the fruit (Photo 3). The rind may also be very bumpy, and have protrusions, especially at the stem end. Often, the peel fails to completely turn colors (Photo 1). If peeled open, the flesh inside of puffy fruits may be malformed so as to appear dry and not contain any juice at all or may just have segments or streaks of fruit that contain small amounts of juice.

Often these fruits are inedible and not good for much. The insides seem pithy or even woody when examined (Photo 2).

So what causes puffy fruit? While this condition is more common in satsumas and other mandarin

orange cultivars, it can happen in other types of citrus. When trees are especially young and not old enough to bear much fruit, the ones that do set and hold on until fall may form as puffy fruits. Generally, young satsumas will do this for the first 1-5 years of age. Stress factors can also generate puffy fruits. Freeze damage, drought, extreme heat, and disease can initiate late flowering or poor fruit set, which can result in the formation of puffy fruits. When citrus



A malformed "puffy" satsuma.

bloom out of season, most of the fruit that does not self-thin and fall off the tree will be a puffy fruit. Additionally, fertilizing with too much nitrogen late in the growing season can trigger flowering and the formation of puffy fruits. I have noticed this is common with limes and lemons that form past August in our area.

So how can we prevent puffy fruits in our trees? Proper fertilization in the spring and in June can help

by providing all of the nutritional resources that the trees need to set a fruit crop successfully. As the trees age and establish, they also tend to outgrow the occurrence of puffy fruit. Irrigating the trees during periods of dry weather can also help by ensuring that the trees stay healthy and stress is reduced, even when we get an extreme summer weather pattern. Covering or protecting your trees in a frost can also help, though this is difficult in larger trees. Young trees should be wrapped in frost covers, and the addition of old incandescent Christmas lights wrapped in the canopy can help to protect the tree from becoming too damaged by frost. Be sure to vent or remove covers when the sun comes up, otherwise you risk damaging the trees via the greenhouse effect inside of the covers. Ultimately, puffy fruits come with the territory when growing citrus, and they can be frustrating, but there is not too much you can do to really keep them from appearing. When you do notice a puffy fruit, it can be removed from the tree at any



Photo 2: These are images of the inside of a malformed “puffy” fruit on top and a normal satsuma below. There is very little juice in the puffy fruit.

time to prevent additional energy resources from going into a fruit that will never be good quality.

~Anna Timmerman



Photo 3: This puffy citrus has a large air gap visible between the rind and the inner tissue.

LA Native

Wax Myrtle (*Morella cerifera*)



A large wax myrtle shrub creates a good barrier to block unwanted views and sound.

M*orella cerifera*, (formerly named *Myrica cerifera*) commonly known as Southern Wax Myrtle or Bayberry, is a fast-growing, evergreen shrub or small tree. It belongs to the *Myricaceae* family and typically reaches heights of 10 to 25 feet and 8 to 10 feet wide. It can also be pruned into a hedge or screen for privacy, or to create a nice border. The plant features narrow, olive-green, glossy leaves that release a distinctive fragrance when crushed due to yellowish resin glands easily visible on the leaf underside (Figure 2). It is dioecious, with small, inconspicuous male and female flowers on separate plants (Figure 2). Female plants produce clusters of waxy, grayish-blue berries (Figure 4) in late

summer to fall. Its common name derives from the waxy berries, which were once harvested to make bayberry candles. Boiling removes the wax from the fruit.

Growing Conditions

Wax Myrtle thrives in USDA zones 7-11 and prefers full sun to partial shade. It is highly adaptable to various soil types including acidic, sandy, loamy, and wet conditions. The plant tolerates salt spray, drought, and periodic flooding, making it ideal for coastal and urban landscapes.

Propagation Methods

Propagation can be achieved through seeds or

cuttings. Seeds should be collected in fall, soaked to remove the waxy coating, and sown in a well-draining mix. Semi-hardwood cuttings taken in late summer can be rooted in a humid environment with indirect light and stable temperatures.

Landscape Uses

Wax myrtle is a popular ornamental because it grows quickly, responds well to pruning, and has attractive evergreen foliage. *Morella cerifera* is widely used for privacy screens, hedges, windbreaks, and erosion control with both standard and dwarf varieties available. The dwarf variety mature dimensions are 3-6 feet tall and 3-6 feet wide.



Figure 3. A- Male Flowers, B- Female Flowers.

Its dense foliage and salt tolerance make it suitable for coastal landscaping.

It also serves as a valuable addition to native plant gardens and wildlife habitats, providing food and shelter for birds and pollinators. The plant serves as a larval host for the Red-Banded Hairstreak Butterfly (*Calycopis cecrops*) and attracts various pollinators.

It is deer and rabbit resistant due to its aromatic foliage. Wax myrtle typically lives 30 to 50 years.

~ Dr. Joe Willis

Selected References

Louisiana Native Plant Society. Wax Myrtle. [Wax](#)



Figure 2. Wax Myrtle leaves. Right shows glands on the top and bottom of the leaf.

[Myrtle - Louisiana Native Plant Society](#)

Missouri Botanical Garden. *Morella cerifera* - Plant Finder. <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=366364&lang=en>

Morella cerifera. Missouri Botanical Garden. [Morella cerifera - Plant Finder](#)

Morella cerifera. 2025. Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center. [Morella cerifera \(Wax myrtle\) | Native Plants of North America](#)

Morella cerifera (Wax Myrtle). 2025. Gardenia.net. [Wax Myrtle \(Morella cerifera\): Everything You Need To Know](#)

Myrica cerifera. NCSU Extension. [Myrica cerifera \(Bayberry, Candleberry, Dwarf Bayberry, Dwarf Wax-myrtle, Eastern Bayberry, Southern Bayberry, Southern Waxmyrtle, Southern Wax Myrtle, Tallow Shrub, Waxmyrtle, Wax Myrtle\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#)



Figure 4. Wax covered fruit on Wax Myrtle.

Weed of the Month

Annual blue-eyed grass

(*Sisyrinchium rosulatum* Bickn.)

As we all know, there are specific plants that evolved to grow at specific times of year. Some of these plants can be considered weeds when growing in places we don't want them to grow. One of these plants is annual blue-eyed grass, *Sisyrinchium rosulatum*. It's a plant native to Southeast U.S., making it a common sight in the region.

We start noticing blue-eyed grass in late winter when it starts producing a rosette of grass-like foliage in late December and early January. The leaves are flat like grass blades (Photo 1), hence the common name. However, blue-eyed grass isn't a true grass plant but rather a member of the iris family, Iridaceae. As daylight increases in late winter and early spring, annual blue-eyed grass begins the flowering process where flowering stems emerge from the rosette of foliage. These shoots average about 12 inches in height and eventually produce white to light purple flowers outlines in dark purple with yellow centers (Photo 2). The fruit or seed capsule develops once flowers have been pollinated. They start out green but then turn to a reddish brown as the seeds mature. Blue-eyed grass reproduces by seed, another reference to its common name. Some folks may not care about controlling blue-eyed grass growing in their home lawn because it's native to the region and produces flowers that support local pollinators. If you find yourself in this category, prioritize good cultural practices to improve the conditions favorable for your species of lawn grass. Mow at recommended mowing heights and proper frequency, provide supplemental irrigation during drought conditions, and apply fertilizers based off soil test recommendations. This will improve the overall health of the lawn and make it more competitive against other plants that grow within it.

For those that want to manage this plant, prevention is key. Following good cultural practices will help but a pre-emergent herbicide adds another layer of control. Pre-emergent herbicides work by creating a herbicide layer at soil level that kills young seedlings as they grow through it. When applied as the product label describes, these products are highly effective on most annual weeds we encounter. Some of the common active ingredients with good effectiveness on annual blue-eyed grass are dithiopyr (Hi-Yield Weed and Grass Stopper Containing Dimension), trifluralin (Preen), and pendimethalin (Scotts Halts Crabgrass and Grassy Weed Preventer). These products should be applied in mid-September to not prevent annual blue-eyed grass germination, as well as other cool season annual weeds. Refer to label for follow up treatments as needed.

~William Afton



Photo 1. The flat leaves of Annual blue-eyed grass.

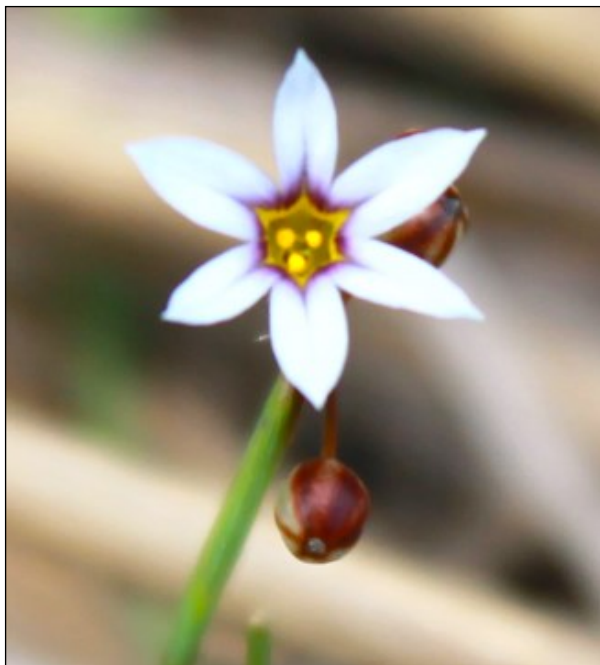


Photo 2. The flower and fruit of annual blue-eyed grass.

What's Bugging You?

Eastern Buck Moths (*Hemileuca maia*)

If you have been outside lately, you may have seen a lot of this month's subject fluttering around seemingly aimlessly like a leaf in the wind. While the primary coloration of brown and white is not very eye-catching, you will glimpse flashes of crimson red from patches of colored hairs on the end of the abdomens of the males and two smaller patches on the thorax where the wings connect on both sexes.

These are the parents of the delightfully anticipated buckmoth caterpillars. If you have not had the "pleasure" of encountering a buck moth then consider yourself lucky as sharp spines on the caterpillars carry a toxin that can deliver a very painful sting. In addition to having the extra coloration



A male Eastern buck moth.



Buck moth eggs deposited around the circumference of an oak tree twig.

on their abdomens, male buck moths have larger feather-like antennae that they use to detect the pheromones of the female moths for the purpose of mating.

The adult moths have non-functional mouthparts so they cannot eat or drink. They have short lives with the only purpose to mate and lay eggs, relying on energy stored from their caterpillar stage. Once copulation has occurred, the female will lay her eggs in a columnar pattern at the ends of small twigs. Their preferred host plants are various species of oak trees but they will lay eggs on other tree species and even use roses as a host. These eggs will overwinter and the caterpillars will emerge in the spring just as the trees are producing the new year's flush of leaves. There are always plenty to be seen on the walk to the Jazz Fest in April. The caterpillars will feed voraciously on the oak leaves and other plants in the garden. Last year they cleaned-house on my Peggy Martin Rose and devastated a hibiscus. Once sated, the mature caterpillars burrow into loose soil or leaf litter/plant debris where they will develop into adult moths in December-January to start the cycle over. If the conditions are not right, buck moths can

remain in their pupa stage for up to two years before emerging.

Control:

There are no recommended treatment options for the adult stage. Pheromone traps can be used to capture males which could reduce the number of caterpillars sired but this will not reduce the population enough to protect plants and (more importantly) people. Instead, treatment strategies focus on controlling the insects during the caterpillar stage. Some of the most effective



The pupa and cast larval skin of a buck moth. You can still see the spikes protruding from the discarded skin.

products to use, and are also organic, contain either *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt.) or spinosad. These products work better on young, smaller caterpillars so applications should begin in early Early-Mid April. Pyrethroid insecticides may be more effective on larger, more mature caterpillars. It is important to apply the products thoroughly to the host tree canopies. It may be necessary to hire a professional with access to the proper equipment for application. Physical removal is



The large feather-like antennae of a male buck moth.

also a choice for smaller plants or for caterpillars found on the trunks of trees. I used a pair of tongs to pluck them off of my roses.

Considering that I have never seen so many adult moths before, I suspect that this will be a blowout spring for the caterpillars so get ready.

~Chris Dunaway



A late instar buck moth caterpillar.

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Orleans Parish

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Mid-City

500 N. Norman C. Francis at the Bayou
Thursdays from 3-7PM
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- City Park

City Putt Parking Lot
Dreyfous Dr. @ Anseman Ave.
Sundays from 8AM-Noon
Info at www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Crescent City Farmer's Market- Uptown

The Batture, 25 Walnut St.
Tuesdays from 8AM-Noon
www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

Vietnamese Farmer's Market

4861 Alcee Fortier Blvd., New Orleans East
Saturdays, 5:30AM-9:00AM

Marketplace at Armstrong Park

701 N. Rampart
Thursdays from 3-7PM
<https://www.facebook.com/MarketplaceArmstrongPark/>

New Orleans French Market

Lower Decatur Street
Daily, 9AM-6PM

Mid-City Arts and Farmer's Market

Comiskey Park, New Orleans
Market dates vary.
Check <http://midcityaf.org>

Laughing Buddha Farm

4516 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA
Home Deliveries in New Orleans Available
Order online at:
<https://laughing-buddha-nursery.localline.ca/online-store>

Barcelo Gardens Farmer's Market- Upper 9th Ward

2301 Gallier Street at the garden, Saturdays from 10AM-1PM
3440 Piety Street Fresh Market open daily, 10AM-4PM.
Check here the link below for other times and locations.
<https://www.facebook.com/BarceloGardens/>

BOUNYFUL Farmer's Market-Algiers Point

530 Powder St, New Orleans, LA
First and Third Sundays of the month, from 10AM-1PM
See more times and events at the link below.
<https://www.facebook.com/bounyfulgreenmarket/>

Sankofa Fresh Stop Market

5029 St. Claude Ave., New Orleans, LA
Monday-Saturday, 9AM-5PM
<https://sankofanola.org/rfq/s/>

Sheaux Fresh Sustainable Foods

1434 N. Dorgenois St., New Orleans, LA
Monday-Tuesday 8am-2pm, Thursday-Friday 11am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm
<https://www.facebook.com/sheauxfresh/>

St. Tammany Parish

Mandeville Trailhead Community Market

Mandeville Trailhead
675 Lafitte St, Mandeville, LA 70448
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMandevilleTrailhead>
985.624.3147

Abita Springs Art and Farmers' Market

22049 Main St., Abita Springs, LA 70420
Saturdays: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.townofabitasprings.com/farmers-market>
985.892.0711

Camellia City Farmer's Market

2055 2nd Street, Old Towne Slidell
Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)
<https://www.facebook.com/CamelliaCityMarket/>
985.640.7112

Folsom Village Market

13401 June St., Behind City Hall
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (weather permitting)
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday
985.507.6496 (daytime only)

St. Charles Parish

German Coast Farmer's Market-East Bank

St. Charles Parish East Regional Library
160 West Campus Drive, Destrehan, LA
Saturdays, from 8AM-Noon
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

German Coast Farmer's Market-West Bank

Westbank Bridge Park-Luling
13825 River Road, Luling, LA
Wednesdays, from Noon-5PM
<http://www.germancoastfarmersmarket.org/>

Farmers Markets in the GNO Area

Jefferson Parish

Gretna Farmer's Market

Between 3rd & 4th St. along Huey P. Long
Every Saturday, except the Saturday of
Gretna Fest, 8:30AM-12:30PM
<https://www.gretnala.com/visitors/farmers-market/>

Nawlins Outdoor Market

1048 Scotsdale Dr., Harvey
Saturdays 9AM-5PM & Sundays 9AM-4PM
Fridays 11AM-3PM
<https://www.facebook.com/NawlinsMarket/>

Old Metairie Farmer's Market

Bayou Metairie Park, Between Metairie Lawn
Dr. and Labarre
1st Tuesday of the month, 2:30PM-6:30PM
Check for seasonal dates!
<https://www.oldmetairiegardenclub.com/tag/farmers-art-metairie-market/>

Terrytown Farmer's Market

1785 Carol Sue Ave, Terrytown, LA
Nov. 2 & Dec 7, 9AM-1PM

Jean Lafitte Town Market-Lafitte

920 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Check website for dates and times
<https://www.facebook.com/JeanLafitteLa/>

Lafreniere Park Market-Metairie

3000 Downs Blvd.
Wednesdays, from 1-6PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064920097975>

Westwego Farmer's Market

484 Sala Ave., Westwego
2nd Tuesday of the month, 11AM-3PM
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075979938725>

Laughing Buddha Farm

4516 Clearview
Store Pickups, preorder online at
<https://www.laughingbuddhanursery.com/>

Westwego Shrimp Lot

100 Westbank Expressway at Louisiana St.,
Westwego
Daily Mon-Thurs 8AM-6PM, Fri 8AM-7PM,
Sat 7AM-7PM, and Sun 7AM-6PM
<https://www.facebook.com/officialwestwegoshrimplot>

Harahan Farmer's Market

501 Oak Ave., Zeringue Park, Harahan
Sundays, 9AM-1PM
<https://www.facebook.com/HarahanMarket>

The Market at Kenner City Park

3Thursdays 1PM-6PM
800 Loyola Drive, Kenner, LA
2nd & 4th Saturdays 10AM-2PM
3800 Loyola Drive
<https://www.facebook.com/RivertownFarmersMarket>

Local Independent Garden Centers

Jefferson

Perino's Garden Center	3100 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 834-7888
Rose Garden Center	4005 Westbank Expressway, Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 341-5664
Rose Garden & Pet Store	5420 Lapalco Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072	(504) 347-8777
Banting's Nursery	3425 River Rd., Bridge City, LA 70094	(504) 436-4343
Jefferson Feed	4421 Jefferson Hwy., Jefferson, LA 70121	(504) 733-8572
Nine Mile Point Plant Nursery	2141 River Rd., Westwego, LA 70094	(504) 436-4915
Palm Garden Depot	351 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 305-6170
Double M Feed Harahan	8400 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123	(504) 738-5007
Double M Feed Metairie	3212 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA 70002	(504) 835-9800
Double M Feed Terrytown	543 Holmes Blvd., Terrytown, LA 70056	(504) 361-4405
Sunrise Trading Co. Inc.	42 3 rd St., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 469-0077
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-4336
Creative Gardens & Landscape	2309 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058	(504) 367-9099
Plumeria Insanity Nursery	https://www.facebook.com/Plumeria-Insanity-Nursery-102123651930419	
Garden Specialties, Inc.	3601 Florida Ave., Kenner, LA 70065	(504) 468-2300
Clearview Plant and Garden	4511 Clearview Pkwy, Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 888-7700
Soil Vendors		
Schmelly's Dirt Farm	8301 Olive St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 535-GROW
Laughing Buddha Garden Center	4516 Clearview Pkwy., Metairie, LA 70006	(504) 887-433
Reliable Soil	725 Reverand Richard Wilson Dr., Kenner, LA 70062	(504) 467-1078
Renaissance Gardens	9123 W. Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043	(504) 682-9911
Rock n' Soil NOLA	9119 Airline Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 488-0908
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713

If you would like your licensed retail nursery listed, please email gnogardening@agcenter.lsu.edu

Local Independent Garden Centers

Orleans

Harold's Plants	1135 Press St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 947-7554
We Bite Rare and Unusual Plants	1225 Mandeville St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 380-4628
Hot Plants	1715 Feliciana St., New Orleans, LA 70117	www.hotplantsnursery.com
Pelican Greenhouse Sales	2 Celebration Dr., New Orleans, LA 70124	(504) 483-9437
Grow Wiser Garden Supply	2109 Decatur St., New Orleans, LA 70116	(504) 644-4713
Jefferson Feed Mid-City	309 N. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119	(504) 488-8118
Jefferson Feed Uptown	6047 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70118	(504) 218-4220
Ninth Ward Nursery	2641 Deslonde St., New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 296-8398
Crazy Plant Bae	800 N. Claiborne Ave., New Orleans LA 70119	(504) 327-7008
Canopy Plant Company	6030 St. Claude, New Orleans, LA 70117	(504) 381-4033
Too Tall Nursery	2817 N. Roman, New Orleans, LA 70117	tootallfarm@gmail.com
Plantery NOLA	Pop Up Locations	www.planteryola.com
Canopy Plant Co.	Pop Up and Online Sales	www.canopyplantco.com
New Orleans Succulent Boutique	Online Sales	https://sites.google.com/view/nolasucculentshop/home
New Orleans Green LLC	Online Sales	www.neworleans-green.com

Plaquemines

Southern Gateway Garden Center	107 Timber Ridge St., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 393-9300
Belle Danse Orchids	14079 Belle Chasse Hwy., Belle Chasse, LA 70037	(504) 419-5416

St. Charles

Plant & Palm Tropical Outlet	10018 River Rd., St. Rose, LA 70087	(504) 468-7256
Martin's Nursery & Landscape	320 3 rd St., Luling, LA 70070	(985) 785-6165

St. Bernard

Plant Pricks	Pop Up Locations	https://plantpricks.com/
Nice Plants, Good Pots	6720 St. Claude Ave., Arabie, LA	Etsy.com/shop/NicePlantsGoodPots

St. Tammany

The Boho Being	1184 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458	(985)707-1623
Banting's Nursery-Northshore	26300 Hwy 190, Lacombe, LA 70445	(985)882-5550

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In the Kitchen with Austin

French Onion Soup

This is a slight twist on the classic recipe for French Onion Soup. Instead of beef stock, chicken broth is used for a lighter and equally delicious final product.

Ingredients:

3 Tbs. butter	6 cups chicken broth
4 large yellow onions, thinly sliced	2 cups water
2 cloves garlic, minced	¾ cup white wine
¼ tsp. salt	4 sprigs fresh thyme
	Salt & Pepper, to taste



Directions:

Melt butter over medium-low heat. Add onions, garlic and salt. Cook for about 45 minutes, stirring regularly, until caramelized.

Add wine and scrape any bits from the bottom of the pot. Once wine is evaporated, add broth, water and thyme. Simmer for one hour, uncovered. Adjust salt and pepper.

Heat oven to 350°. Toss bread cubes with olive oil and bake until crisp, about 10 minutes.

Ladle soup into oven-safe bowls. Top with bread cubes and Gruyere cheese. Broil until cheese is melted, about 1 minute.



Two bowls of French onion soup

Cheese Straws

When you are looking for the perfect New Years Eve snack, cheese straws fit the bill. This heirloom recipe is delicious and pairs perfectly with cocktails or a nice green salad.

Ingredients:

½ c unsalted butter, softened	1 tsp. baking soda
2 c sharp cheddar cheese, shredded	½ tsp. salt
1 ½ c flour	¼ tsp. cayenne pepper



A pan crispy golden cheese straws

Directions:

Heat your oven to 400°. In a large bowl, cream butter well. Add cheese and blend until mixed completely. In a separate bowl, add dry ingredients and whisk thoroughly.

Stir dry ingredients into cheese mixture until just combined. Roll dough into 1/8 inch thickness and cut into ½ inch wide strips. Place on parchment lined baking sheet and bake for about 15 minutes, until browned.

Cool completely and serve.

Bon Manger

January Checklist/Garden Tips

Planting cool season vegetables and bedding plants continues. Although exceptionally cold weather can cause problems, winter weather is mostly mild. Watch the weather and avoid setting out transplants when a hard freeze below the upper 20s is predicted.

During cold of winter weather the water coming out of the tap can be decidedly chilly. When filling up your watering can to water your indoor plants, don't just turn on the cold water tap. Turn on both cold and hot water and adjust the temperature of the water coming out of the faucet until it feels tepid or barely warm. This is healthier for tropical houseplants and will prevent the spotting of African violet foliage.

Resolve to pick more flowers from your garden for indoor arrangements this year. Most gardeners are too reluctant to harvest the flowers growing in their gardens, when flowers can enrich our home interiors in wonderful ways. Think how nice it would be to have a little vase of pansies, snapdragons or stock on the table beside you right now.

You must plant any spring flowering bulbs you have been refrigerating by early January, or you will be too late. You cannot keep the bulbs, such as tulips and hyacinths, and plant them next year

Now is a good time to make hardwood cuttings of such plants as pears, figs, roses and hydrangeas. Cuttings should be taken from the ends of branches and be 6 to 8 inches long.

Bare root rose bushes are arriving at local nurseries and garden centers. If you choose to plant bare root roses, January is the month to do it, or by the end of February at the latest. Containerized roses may also be planted as soon as they become available at the nurseries, but can be planted as late as April.

Add leaves falling from deciduous trees to your compost pile as they become available. Speed decomposition by chopping the leaves and sprinkling some nitrogen fertilizer over the leaves as you build the pile. Keep the piles evenly moist but not soggy. Turning the pile occasionally will also speed decomposition.

Whenever practical, continue to deadhead cool season annuals such as pansies, snapdragons and dianthus to keep them blooming through the spring.

Pansies and other cool season bedding plants may bloom less during the mid-winter period but should pick-up again in the late winter and early spring. If the foliage color is a good deep green and the plants seem to be growing well, you shouldn't need to fertilize now. Pansies are, however, heavy feeders. If the foliage is even slightly pale and if the growth is less vigorous, fertilize every two to three weeks with a 20-20-20 soluble fertilizer according to label directions until the color and vigor improves.

Root crops, such as radish, carrot, turnip and beet, should be direct seeded right where they will grow this month. Young plants may need some protection from temperatures below the mid-twenties.

After your Holiday cactus plant stops blooming, don't forget to move it into a sunny window for the rest of the winter. Keep it evenly moist but not constantly wet as this promotes root rot. In April, you may move it to a spot outside that receives morning sun for the summer.

Lawn Care Do's & Don't's

January is typically the least active month for lawn care. Now is a great chance to make plans and prepare for the coming growing season.

Do's:

1. You may apply selective herbicides to eliminate broad leaf weeds in the lawn.
2. Cool damp weather is ideal for the appearance of Large Patch Disease in your lawn.
[Click here to find information about large patch disease from the LSU AgCenter.](#)
3. Keep an eye out for insect pests and treat as necessary.
4. Mulch fall leaves and let them decompose in place if possible or collect them with a bagging mower and add them to your compost pile or use them as mulch in your gardens.
5. Take a soil test. Test kits are available in our offices in the Botanical Gardens, the Yenni Building, and New Orleans City Hall as well as local garden centers. Follow this link to see Dr. Joe demonstrate how to take a soil sample: <https://www.facebook.com/1030624690304124/videos/1452161988150390/>
6. Sharpen lawn mower blades and perform general maintenance on your lawn mower.
7. Make a schedule for pesticide and fertilizer applications.
8. Be prepared to apply pre-emergent herbicides next month if you have had problems with crabgrass or goosegrass in the past.

Don't's

1. Do not spread fill over the lawn until it is actively growing again in the spring.
2. Do not apply fertilizer to the lawn again until April.
3. Do not apply phosphorous winterizer to the lawn without taking a soil sample first. We have ample amounts of phosphorous in our soil already.
4. Do not attempt to install a new lawn until spring.
5. Do not aerate the lawn.
6. Do not dethatch the lawn.

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Have Questions? Contact the LSU AgCenter Extension Agent in your Parish.

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